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ABSTRACT

Local genealogical societies and libraries have a common interest in providing genealogical researchers with materials and expert assistance. Societies and libraries can cooperate to meet genealogists' needs in several ways: (1) collection development, access, and creation; (2) indirect reference service (societies as a referral resource; (3) direct reference service to patrons (by mail and in person); and (4) programming, including the sharing of facilities for meetings and programs. Local genealogical societies (n=113) were surveys to identify characteristics of local genealogical societies and the extent of their own collections, to determine the degree to which they cooperate with libraries in their research area, and to assess the attitudes of societies toward libraries and their role in the genealogy network. The Local Genealogical Society Questionnaire with raw survey results and mailing enclosures and a list of local genealogical organizations in Ohio are appended. (53 references) (Author/DB)

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KENT STATE UNIVERSITY

A STUDY OF LOCAL GENEALOGICAL SOCIETIES' COOPERATION WITH AREA LIBRARIES IN PROMOTING GENEALOGICALLY RELATED SERVICES AND COLLECTION DEVELOPMENT

A PAPER SUBMITTED TO THE FACULTY OF
THE SCHOOL OF LIBRARY AND INFORMATION SCIENCE
FOR FULFILLMENT OF MASTER'S RESEARCH PAPER REQUIREMENTS

BY
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KENT, OHIO
DECEMBER, 1991

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ABSTRACT

Local genealogical societies and libraries have a common interest in providing genealogical researchers with materials and expert assistance. Societies and libraries can cooperate to meet genealogists' needs in several ways: 1) collection development, access and creation, 2) indirect reference service (societies as a referral resource), 3) direct reference service to patrons (by mail and in person), and 4) programming, including the sharing of facilities for meetings and programs. Local genealogical societies in Ohio (n=113) were surveyed to identify characteristics of local genealogical societies and the extent of their own collections, to determine the degree to which they cooperate with libraries in their research area, and to assess the attitudes of societies toward libraries and their role in the genealogy network.

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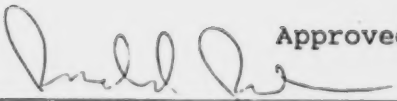
Adviser  Date 10-31-91

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CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

Statement of the Problem

Genealogy is considered to be one of Americans' most popular hobbies (Bidlack 1978, xxiii), and has grown steadily in popularity during the past decade (Meyer 1990, v) after a great surge in interest in the late 1970s largely attributed to the U.S. Bicentennial and the television miniseries Roots. Factors cited to explain interest in genealogy have been technological (especially the impact of microform and computers) and economic (an increasing number of educated people have leisure time to devote to a semi-scholarly hobby) (Dulong 1986, 23). A deeper cultural dynamic may be involved as well--since the end of World War II especially, Americans have become a geographically mobile population, in which family traditions are no longer transmitted as a matter of course from generation to generation. The breakup of the nuclear family in recent decades has also contributed to a discontinuity of the transmitted history of knowledge (Quinn 1991, B2). As early as the 1930s, Marcus Lee Hansen identified "The Third Generation Phenomenon": while first and second generation immigrants to America seek to distance

themselves from their ancestors and ancestral culture to confirm their "Americanness", the third or fourth generation desires to know of their heritage (Hansen 1952; Taylor and Crandall 1986, 80). Finally, Americans are searching for identity in a modern society which has become increasingly consumerist, homogenized, and culturally vacuous (Quinn 1991, B2). All of these factors suggest continuing interest in genealogical research--and consequently a continuing demand for genealogical services.

At some point practically all genealogists use libraries in their research--a point which many librarians do not look forward to. Richard Harvey cites several reasons for the characterization of genealogists as the bane of reference librarians. Genealogists require access to a wide variety of sources, and each search requires access to a different combination of sources--so that a reference librarian cannot provide or indicate a range of useful sources for inquiries in general or in particular without examining each of them in some depth. Genealogical inquiries are likely to require early, if not immediate, access to primary sources--which were usually not created with their user-friendliness to a genealogist in mind. Like other historical sources, genealogical sources often change over time, if not in their nature, then in their availability and accessibility, further

complicating the development of search strategy and source identification. Finally, genealogists may come to their task without prior research experience, without a familiarity with how libraries work, or even a knowledge of the most basic techniques, such as indexes, of acquiring information from source materials (Harvey 1983, 8-10). In short, the challenging nature of genealogical research, combined with the research inexperience of many genealogists, accounts to a great extent for librarians' perception and the reality of genealogists being difficult reference patrons.

Whether or not they intend to serve genealogists, the demand on libraries for genealogical services will continue. One reason for this is that many of the records important to genealogists are created at the local level. Since libraries generally operate to serve a local community, they are likely to collect local history and community materials useful to genealogists in the course of normal acquisitions, a fact of which even novice genealogists are aware. Archives and some special libraries may have at least primary materials of use to a genealogist. Even academic library collections include items that a genealogist will find useful, such as library and association directories, map and atlas collections, and general histories. As a focal point for information seekers in general, libraries will attract genealogists--and

libraries will best prepare for them by collecting to satisfy genealogists' needs, and/or by becoming aware of genealogical resources in the community at large.

Need for the Study (Justification)

John P. Dulong's study (1986) of the genealogical organizational environment places libraries in the larger context of how genealogists satisfy their information needs. Genealogists are organizationally dependent--that is, once personal contacts have been exhausted, they must rely on information created, held, or otherwise controlled by other organizations to further their research. "Genealogical organizations" are voluntary associations which process genealogical information for both their members and non-members, and include genealogical societies at the national, regional, and local levels, ethnic genealogical societies, branches of the LDS (Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints, or Mormon) genealogical library system, and hereditary patriotic orders. Although a minority of genealogists are involved in organizations, the majority of genealogists have frequent contacts with these groups and come to depend on them for information and skills (Dulong 1986, 64). "Genealogical service organizations" are non-genealogical organizations that serve both genealogical and

non-genealogical patrons. They include libraries, archives, churches, and vital record offices. Genealogical service organizations are not oriented exclusively toward genealogists; they may even be hostile toward genealogical patrons, but yet attract genealogists because of the content of their collections. The network of genealogical organizations and genealogical service organizations concerned with the processing of ancestral knowledge for individual members or patrons is the "genealogical sector"--the complexity of which has increased along with genealogy's popularity in the last two decades (Dulong 1986, 4-5).

As genealogical service organizations, libraries have goals in common with genealogical organizations such as genealogical societies in serving the needs of genealogists. Local genealogical societies are often formally associated with area libraries or historical societies, reflecting a common interest in preserving the history of an area and its residents, and making that information accessible. Genealogical society collections of instructional texts, local histories, and finding aids to genealogically significant records are in themselves special libraries. It makes sense for libraries, through awareness, coordination, and cooperation, to take advantage of the information and skill which genealogical organizations control to serve the

genealogical information needs of their own constituencies.

While the professional library literature has devoted a modest degree of attention to library service for genealogists, peaking in 1983 with feature issues devoted to the subject in the journals Library Trends and RQ, most of its emphasis has been at the micro-level, focusing on service to individual genealogical patrons. With few exceptions, research has been based on non-scientific surveys, how-we-do-it articles, and anecdotal accounts. The few systematic genealogically related library research studies have been done from the perspective of libraries and/or individual library patrons. Articles usually refer in passing to genealogical organizations, though how-we-do-it articles occasionally illustrate specific instances of library-society cooperation. In general, though the library literature notes that genealogical organizations exist and are a potential library resource, no systematic research has been done to find out the degree to which this resource is actually being utilized. This study proposes to fill that gap in the library research literature through an exploratory descriptive study of local genealogical societies and their interactions with libraries.

Limitations of the Study

Parameters were established in the planning and execution of this study with the objective of creating a representative yet homogeneous database which could be successfully analyzed statistically. It was also considered important to develop a user-friendly survey instrument which would encourage a high response rate.

The study was limited geographically to a single state, Ohio. Study at the state level is appropriate since 1) in many cases, the management of genealogically significant records (e.g., statutes regarding disposition of civil vital records), and hence patterns of genealogists' information-seeking behavior, is determined at the state level, and 2) from an organizational perspective, consortia, umbrella organizations, advisory bodies, etc., that would influence the policies of libraries and genealogical societies often are established at the state level (e.g., the Ohio Genealogical Society). Choosing from the various states to study, Ohio is a good representative for several reasons. First, it is one of the more populous states in the U.S. Second, Ohio includes a variety of regional orientations: the Midwest represented in northwestern Ohio, influence from the South in southern Ohio, and a New England influence in northern and northeastern Ohio, which were settled as early

as the 1790s as the Firelands and the Connecticut Western Reserve. Finally, Ohio's location on three of the principal migration routes leading west from the early U.S. population centers in New England and Pennsylvania (Lewis 1990, 80-1) make it a genealogically important state.

Organizationally, the study was limited to genealogical organizations established to serve a local area--usually a county, sometimes a county and adjacent counties at a secondary level, and sometimes a metropolitan area or part of a metropolitan area. This focused the study on organizations whose goals most closely matched those of libraries, i.e., serving the information needs of a geographic community. While national and state genealogical societies, ethnic genealogical societies, and hereditary patriotic orders may, and indeed do in some cases, work with libraries, the nature of and motivation for their interactions with libraries in the genealogical network are more complex, in part because their constituencies don't match those of individual libraries. Limiting the study to local genealogical societies improved its effectiveness by matching genealogical organizations and genealogical service organizations with a roughly equal incentive to cooperate with each other.

The design of the research instrument balanced the goal of retrieving accurate and useful data with the goal of

encouraging a high response rate through a user-friendly survey. Although narrative response was optionally requested in several places, most of the questions were in a yes-no format. A substantial number of responses requested whether an activity occurred at all during the past three years, providing an imperfect longitudinal perspective. Limiting a respondent to one answer for each question occasionally oversimplified reality because in some cases, a multiple answer was more accurate; for example, society materials of a certain type may be kept at a member's home and at a library, or society-library attitudes may be completely different between different libraries in the society's research area. One unavoidable limitation was completion of the survey instrument by a single member of an organization comprised of many members with many viewpoints, whose responses may or may not accurately represent the views of the organization--this would be particularly significant for the questions regarding attitudes between societies and libraries. No guidelines were given to the respondents as to whom could complete the survey, in order to facilitate response. Forty of the sixty-nine individual survey respondents indicated their office when signing the questionnaire, and of those, fourteen were the society's president, eleven its corresponding secretary, and six its treasurer--all executive board members who would

be likely to have an awareness of society activities and policies.

Objectives of the Study

This study's objectives were to 1) identify characteristics of local genealogical societies and the extent of their own collections, 2) to determine the degree of interaction between genealogical societies and libraries in providing access to genealogical materials and research assistance, and in organizing and promoting genealogically related activities, and 3) to assess the attitudes of societies toward libraries and their role in the genealogy sector. Interactions between societies and libraries (called "linkages," following Dulong's terminology) were measured in four broad areas: development and creation of, and access to, library collections, indirect reference service (referrals), direct reference service, and programming. Data analysis, using the statistical package SAS, included response frequencies for society characteristics, society-library linkages, and society-library attitudes, and observed correlations between variables.

CHAPTER 2

PLAN FOR THE STUDY

Literature Survey

The early library literature on genealogical service to library patrons scarcely mentions local genealogical societies. P. W. Filby gave a clue for the reason this was so when he named four types of amateur genealogical patron: aspirants to hereditary patriotic organizations (e.g., the DAR), well-to-do patrons in search of an appropriately noble lineage, LDS church members--and ordinary people, mentioned almost as a catch-all category. Through the early 1970s, a modest number of local, state, and regional genealogical societies--often located in large metropolitan areas, and associated with historical societies or libraries with large research collections--operated with significant memberships and established publications. However, the explosion of interest in genealogy in the mid-1970s was characterized by a shift from a focus on lineage, i.e., genealogy as a means to assert or confirm social status, to a focus on heritage, i.e., to place one's ancestors in the context of history, to acquire a sense of cultural identity (Dulong 1986, 307). The resulting growth in genealogical societies in U.S. and

Canada, from 750 in 1978, and 1,000 in 1980 (Meyer 1980, v), to 1,900 in 1990 (Meyer 1990, v) resulted mainly from the creation of local genealogical societies to serve the ordinary people whom Filby mentioned as an afterthought less than twenty-five years ago.

The library literature relevant to cooperation between genealogical societies and libraries is either solely of an advisory nature, of an advisory nature with illustrative case studies, or in a few cases gets beyond the how-we-do-it level through surveys or other methods. Suggested areas of cooperation include development and creation of, and access to, library collections, indirect reference (referrals), direct reference service, and programming.

Advisory articles recommend several avenues of library-society cooperation in the area of collection development. Harvey (1983, 17) suggests cooperation in indexing, abstracting or processing projects of primary materials. Libraries might request that, as societies publish such materials, they donate copies to their own collection (Gardiner 1984, 28). A library might house a genealogical society's entire collection of books, periodicals, card indexes, and other materials, to improve access to materials and supplement the library's collection (Gardiner 1984, 28; Harvey 1983, 17). Societies may also assist with selection

and acquisition of materials and equipment--with expert advice and/or financial assistance (Bidlack 1977, xxix; Harvey 1983, 17).

Advisory articles also recommend that libraries utilize societies as a reference resource, either indirectly as an expert source of information, or directly to solve patron needs in person or by mail. Indirect approaches would include libraries referring patrons to societies for specialized materials they produce and/or own such as indexes and copies of genealogically significant records (Amason 1988, 289; Bonanno 1981, 121; Carothers 1983, 73; Gardiner 1984, 27), or referring patrons to societies for genealogical research assistance beyond the expertise of library staff (Amason 1988, 289; Carothers 1983, 73; Gardiner 1984, 27; Marhenke 1990, 396; Parker 1983, 185; Ralston 1986, 80; Wagenknecht 1976, 458). Societies may research and reply to genealogically related correspondence libraries receive (Bidlack 1983a, 18; Gardiner 1984, 27). In the most direct reference capacity, society members may volunteer to assist library patrons doing genealogical research, supplementing library staff (Amason 1988, 289; Bidlack 1983b, 18; Harvey 1983, 18; Waggener 1986, 22).

Advisory articles suggest other ways for libraries and societies to cooperate, mostly involving the use of

facilities and staff to organize and promote genealogical meetings and programming. Libraries may provide facilities to societies for meetings and special events such as seminars and workshops; a variant of this is a cooperative venture whereby the library agrees to house the society's collection, and in turn, provides meeting facilities for the society (Gardiner 1984, 28). Libraries and societies may cooperatively sponsor genealogical programs, such as beginners' workshops, for the general public (Amason 1988, 288; Wagenknecht 1976, 458; Waggener 1986, 22). Finally, local genealogical societies can be a strong political ally of library interests when budgets or programs are at stake (Bidlack 1977, xxix; Bidlack 1983a, 18; Waggener 1986, 22).

How-we-do-it articles provide examples of genealogical society and library cooperation, though they don't indicate whether the example is representative or an exception. Ralston (1986) mentions a New Zealand library where the local genealogical society's collection has been combined with that of the library, and where society members assist with genealogical queries. Crawford (1987) provides an example of strong cooperation between a small public library and a local genealogical society. The genealogical society's holdings are combined with the library's, the society's card indexes (abstracted from the local newspaper) of obituaries and other

vital records is kept at the library for general use, the society provides volunteer staff and answers mail queries, the society budgets funds for adding to the library collection, and sells genealogical charts and forms at the library.

Individual case study articles in two issues of Illinois Libraries, when taken together, come as close as any in the literature to discussing society-library interaction on an aggregate basis. One issue is devoted to genealogical activity in a variety of Illinois libraries, including private and university libraries and governmental organizations. Two of the thirteen articles mention local genealogical society involvement. In a second issue, devoted to Illinois public library cases, twelve of the twenty-three articles discuss local society involvement with libraries' genealogical collections and/or activities. In these fourteen articles, all of the cooperative linkages noted above are mentioned, along with a few variations. One way to increase the genealogical collection quickly is by exchanging newsletters--when a society provides other societies with copies of its newsletter in exchange for copies of theirs (James 1988, 487; Jensen 1988, 523). One library wrote of plans to, in cooperation with a local society, computerize indexes and finding aids (Nolan 1988, 500). Another society

keeps a location index they've compiled at the library, which provides the name, date of origin, and record location for cemeteries, churches and schools in the county (Jensen 1988, 523).

The first surveys of genealogical activity in the U.S. were conducted by genealogists themselves. Elizabeth Nichols surveyed 112 libraries in 1973 to gather information on genealogically related activities; a followup survey was conducted in 1977; the results of this survey (which did not ask for society affiliation), were never published (Bennion and Nichols 1980, 4). Bennion and Nichols' 1979 study of genealogical activity in the U.S. was designed to gather information on the range of activities occurring at the grass roots level. Their survey was open-ended, asking respondents to describe projects or activities, including reference materials used, subject material covered, scope and participation, funding and scholarship, and personal responses. The results indicated that societies in general (historical, genealogical, etc.) sponsored 13% of the total activities surveyed, and libraries 4% (educational institutions sponsored 60% of the reported activities). A diverse set of sources was employed to obtain responses, including surveys published in genealogical periodicals and telephone calls to state boards of education (Bennion and

Nichols 1980, 5), which limited the value of the survey in determining whether activities were representative or anecdotal. In any event, no cases of society involvement with libraries were noted.

Russell E. Bidlack was the first in the library literature to employ the survey approach in finding out about genealogical activity in libraries. His surveys of an unspecified number of library directors in 1977 and 1982 asked them in an open-ended fashion what their institutions were doing in regard to genealogical library service. One of Bidlack's respondents reported that volunteers were used extensively, some representing local genealogical societies (Bidlack 1983a, 178), and another noted that local genealogical societies had actively campaigned to pass library levies (Bidlack 1983a, 178). A state librarian of New York said that, in the two years previous to the (1982) survey, "service to groups of genealogists--e.g., genealogical and hereditary societies, clubs, and family associations--...increased" (Bidlack 1983b, 177). While a wide range of responses were developed, no statistical analysis of the responses was published. In sum, while Bidlack's studies were important to generating libraries' interest about genealogy, they provided at best an aggregate of how-we-do-it information to the body of library research.

The earliest study of genealogists from which statistical results were derived was a 1981 user study of genealogical patrons at the Newberry Library in Chicago, one of the leading genealogical research institutions in the U.S., by Peggy Tuck Sinko and Scott Peters. They found that 52.4% of respondents belonged to at least one genealogical society, and 37.2% had attended a special genealogical program in the previous year (Sinko and Peters 1983, 102). The significance of this study was to gain knowledge about the characteristics and background of individual genealogical researchers, and thereby assist libraries in meeting genealogists' information needs.

John J. Dulong's sociology dissertation (1986) observed a sample of genealogical organizations in a Midwestern state. Dulong noted a shift in the genealogical sector's perspective from lineage, represented by the hereditary patriotic societies (ancestor knowledge as a means of social status to the elite, and providing models of ideal historical citizens to the masses), to heritage (using genealogical skills and information as a means of providing everyone with a sense of identity and belonging). This shift was paralleled by Dulong with a broader societal evolution in hegemonic ideology--the mythology that encourages a society's citizens to cooperate with the ruling class--from transformative (which builds

patterns of appropriate behavior, based upon ideas of the elite, which the people are encouraged to follow) to expansive (which is concerned with uniting all the people behind common, inclusive and non-divisive themes). Heritage-based genealogy, instead of glorifying ancestors, grants them equality; it gives people a sense of belonging by altering the image of the role our ancestors played in history, without demanding great changes in contemporary society (Dulong 1986, 354).

Dulong noted that genealogy's shift from a lineage to a heritage perspective was already occurring by the mid-1970s, and the creation of a State Council of Genealogical Societies in 1972 was an important step in providing an alternative to the hereditary patriotic societies. However, the process was rapidly accelerated by the U.S. Bicentennial in 1976 and the broadcast of Roots in 1977 (Dulong 1986, 360).

Three distinct types of genealogical organizations were noted by Dulong to be part of the move toward heritage-based genealogy. The State Council acted as a linking pin organization, representing member societies in governmental policy issues, encouraging formation of new local and ethnic societies, and sponsoring joint projects with member societies and seminars (Dulong 1986, 277). The older (pre-1976) genealogical societies, which were established

organizations when the genealogy boom arrived, generally approved of the State Council's formation, although they were more likely than the newer groups to act independently of the State Council. The older societies' stability resulted in organizational inertia that prevented them from taking advantage of the genealogy boom to the extent that other genealogical organizations did (Dulong 1986, 265). Some of the older societies hoped that through their reputation and their publications, they would create a niche and attract genealogists interested in leadership positions in the field or association with an established organization.

Members of the third group, newer local and ethnic genealogical societies, were created since the mid-1970s, when genealogy rapidly attained broad popularity. Established to serve local areas or particular ethnic groups, they initially drew away support from the older societies. The biggest threats to these organizations were isolation from the State Council or a lack of organization due to personality clashes (which, as Dulong noted, are more common in newer and smaller groups which are often dominated by a person or coalition) (Dulong 1986, 280).

The focus of Dulong's work was to demonstrate the role of different organizations in genealogy's shift in focus toward a heritage perspective, which has resulted in the

acceptance of genealogy as a popular and acceptable hobby, and the acceptance of genealogical organizations as valuable allies to genealogical service organizations and as assets to the community in general. Dulong provides valuable insight into the complex role that different organizations play in meeting the needs of genealogists.

Data Collection Methods

To complete a quantitative exploratory study of local genealogical society characteristics, the characteristics of those societies' library collections, and the interactions between the societies and libraries, survey methodology was used.

Local genealogical societies in the state of Ohio were surveyed for this study. State genealogical societies, ethnic genealogical societies, and societies of genealogists with Ohio interests domiciled outside of Ohio were not included. The single exception to this was the KYOWVA Genealogical Society, based in Huntington, West Virginia; KYOWVA's active membership and research area includes Lawrence County, Ohio, directly across the Ohio River from Huntington. The principal sources used for identifying these societies were Elizabeth Petty Bentley's (1991) Genealogist's Address Book, Mary Keysor Meyer's (1990) Directory of

Genealogical Societies in the U.S.A. and Canada, George B. Everton's (1991) Handy Book for Genealogists, and the Newsletter of the Ohio Genealogical Society. While Bentley was used as the primary source and included four societies not noted in the other works, Meyer was used to eliminate some duplicate and obsolete entries in Bentley, Everton added four societies, and the OGS Newsletter added two recently formed OGS chapters to the database.

The plan of the study involved mailing a five-page survey (see Appendix A) to the total population of 113 local genealogical societies in the state of Ohio (see Appendix B). Prior to the initial mailing, the survey instrument was reviewed by officers of two genealogical societies from outside the research population, and minor changes were made based on that review. An initial mailing produced a 52% response rate, and a second mailing increased the response rate to 62% (69 responses), an acceptable number for data reliability.

Data in the mailed survey instrument were collected in six areas: 1) respondent profile, 2) collection development, access and creation, 3) referral and reference, 4) facilities and programming, 5) genealogical libraries in research area, and 6) attitudes.

Data were collected in the first section of the survey

to establish a profile of the respondents, collecting information about their research area (rural or urban region), size of membership (total, local, and active), age of the society, and whether the society was affiliated with another society or library. Questions were posed in a combination of short-answer, yes/no, and categorized checklist formats.

The second category of questions requested information about society collections and society involvement in the genealogical collections of area libraries. A yes/no question addressed written agreements between libraries and societies where the latter's collection is housed in the former's library. From a categorized checklist, respondents were asked to indicate, for several different types of materials, whether the society owned such materials, and if so, where they were located. Yes/no questions addressed society-library cooperation in processing documents, advising on collection decisions, and donating materials and/or funds for library collections. Respondents were asked to describe cooperative document processing projects with libraries. A categorized checklist question asked for an estimate of value of society donations to libraries.

The third category of questions addressed the role of societies as referral sources for libraries and as direct

(mail and personal) reference resources for libraries. Yes/no questions were asked to determine activity in this area in the past three years.

The fourth category of questions asked whether library staff or facilities had been used by societies to hold society meetings or workshops, whether libraries publicized such society activities, and whether societies and libraries had co-sponsored genealogical programs. The questions were posed in a yes/no format, but respondents were asked to describe co-sponsored events in a short answer format.

For the fifth area, a short answer question asked respondents to identify the three best libraries in their research area, ranked in order of the quality of their genealogical collection.

In the sixth area, respondents were asked to respond using a Likert-type scale to seven attitude statements regarding society-library relations and local libraries' service to genealogists.

Definition of Terms Used

Most of the survey instrument's terms are self-explanatory. The term "research area" was defined in the survey as being "the geographic area for which your society was established to serve--including counties, parts of

counties, or metropolitan areas." This is important because a society's geographic focus influences with which libraries it will interact. Research area also is important to analyzing membership, because genealogists often belong to several societies, one in their residence area, and others in remote areas in which they are researching (Dulong 1986, 64); membership within the research area may more accurately reflect a society's dynamism than total society membership.

In the data analysis below, "linkage" is the operational term for the theoretical construct of cooperation between a type of genealogical organization, the local genealogical society, and a type of genealogical service organization, the library, as they operate in the genealogical sector. In this study, "linkages" are defined as evidences of positive interaction between genealogical societies and libraries as regards the provision of genealogically related materials, services, or programs to society members, library patrons, or the general public. The presence or absence of linkages developed by the survey instument will be analyzed to determine how local genealogical societies in the research population cooperate with libraries to meet genealogists' information needs.

CHAPTER 3

RESULTS OF THE SURVEY

Results--Geographic and Demographic Profile

Two factors recognized as potentially affecting society-library linkages were 1) the geographic location of the organizations, since the region's history would influence the nature of research and the background of the researchers, and 2) the demographic character of the area, because variances in the number and quality of information source repositories between urban and rural locations might affect the perceived need for or the nature of society-library linkages. To measure geographic and demographic characteristics of the population, and in turn the degree to which the respondent population (n=69) was representative of the overall research population with respect to these characteristics, each society was first identified with a domicile county based on the society's mailing address (this was an oversimplification for only a few societies whose research area extends into contiguous counties). To measure geographic representation, each county was then assigned to one of five regions according to the Ohio Calendar of Events, a tourist publication. To measure demographic representation, each

county was designated either as urban--if part of a Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA), or rural--if not located in an MSA.

Tables 1 and 2 illustrate the extent to which the respondents were geographically and demographically representative of the total research population. In two regions, the central (C) and northwest (NW), the response rate varied more than 12% from the overall 61% response rate. Variances in rural/urban percentage ratio between total population and respondent population were minor, ranging from 2% in the northwest (NW) to 8% in the northeast (NE) region, and varying by 0% (49% urban respondents and 49% urban societies in total population) overall.

TABLE 1

GEOGRAPHICAL REPRESENTATION OF SURVEY RESPONDENTS VS. SURVEY POPULATION

	Region of state					Total state
	NE	NW	C	SW	SE	
Total number of societies	35	26	10	20	22	113
% of societies responding	69	46	80	50	68	61

TABLE 2

DEMOGRAPHIC REPRESENTATION OF SURVEY RESPONDENTS
VS. SURVEY POPULATION

Society Count Parameter	Region of State					Total state
	NE	NW	C	SW	SE	
% Urban/Rural Distribution of Total Population	71/29	27/73	70/30	55/45	23/77	49/51
% Urban/Rural Distribution of Respondent Population	79/21	25/75	63/37	50/50	20/80	49/51

Survey Results--Profile Frequencies

The remainder of the respondent profile (see Table 3) indicated that most societies have a large total membership (82% with 81+ members). Ten societies (14%) reported membership numbers exceeding 150, and seven of those exceeded 350. However, the number of members actually residing in the research area was significantly lower--54% of the societies estimated local membership at 60 or fewer, and only four societies (6%) reported local membership figures over 150. Smaller yet was the core of members who regularly attend meetings (49% of respondents estimated average attendance of 0-20, 42% in the 21-40 range). One respondent volunteered

that "the relevant question is how many of our members are members of OGS and go to conventions"--which may be a valid point and warrants further study, but likely is a better measure of an individual member's interest in genealogy than of his/her interest in being active in a local society. The majority of the societies have been in existence less than fifteen years (12% five years or less, 39% ten years or less), only 28% of the societies were established before the U.S. Bicentennial in 1976, and only one society was established prior to 1965--a historical society formed in 1886. Ninety-one percent of the societies were affiliated with the Ohio Genealogical Society (OGS), an umbrella organization based in Mansfield, Ohio. Twenty-seven percent of the societies were originally formed as part of another organization (besides OGS); for 83% of those societies (20% of all respondents), that organization was a historical society, and for the other 17% (4% of all respondents), either a public library or a genealogical society. Fifty-nine percent (14% of all respondents) of the societies originally formed as part of another organization reported they were still affiliated with that organization.

TABLE 3

OHIO LOCAL GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY PROFILE

Current total membership		0-20	21-40	41-60	61-80	81+
	Percent:	4	7	4	3	82
Current number of members residing locally (in research area)		0-20	21-40	41-60	61-80	81+
	Percent:	12	24	18	15	31
Average attendance at society meetings		0-20	21-40	41-60	61-80	81+
	Percent:	49	42	6	3	0
Number of years society organized		0-5	6-10	11-15	16-20	21+
	Percent:	12	27	33	16	12
Affiliated with Ohio Genealogical Society (OGS)		Yes	No			
	Percent:	91	9			
Originally affiliated with another organization (besides OGS)		Yes	No			
	Percent:	25	75			
Original affiliate organization		Historical Society	Public Library or Genealogical Soc.			None
	Percent:	20	3			76
Now affiliated with another organization		Yes	No			
	Percent:	14	86			

Survey Results--Frequencies--Collection Development, Access and Creation

Sixty-seven percent of respondents indicated that

genealogical materials owned by their society were kept at a library not owned by the society, but only 28% of those (19% of all respondents) had a written agreement with that library specifying ownership, access, and other issues regarding those materials. When asked to specify the location of specific types of genealogical materials owned by the society, the most common response (in a range from 44 to 62% depending on type of material) was a library not operated by the society (see Table 4). The next most common location for materials to be kept was a library operated by the society (in a range from 17 to 25% depending on type of material). Societies were least likely to own general genealogical reference texts (31% did not own them), and most likely to own back issues of their own newsletter (99%). Over 20% of the societies kept society-generated surname lists and indexes and society newsletter back issues solely at a society member's residence.

The survey question about materials location oversimplified reality because some societies indicated that certain materials were kept in more than one location. In coding the survey data, even if the respondent indicated more than one location, only one location was coded (the location deemed most accessible to the general public), because to count more than one location would unequally weight that

respondent's data. To estimate the impact of these multiple locations, a computation was done which counted each location given in a multiple answer as a discrete data element; this resulted in several significant (greater than 3%) percentage changes. Frequency of holdings at a society member's residence increased for three types: Ohio genealogy and history books (to 8% from 3%), society publications besides newsletters (to 23% from 19%) and society newsletter backissues (to 31% from 22%), and frequency of holdings at non-society operated libraries decreased for the same three categories (to 52% from 57%, to 44% from 48%, and to 40% from 46% respectively). Frequency of holdings at a society-operated library decreased for society newsletter backissues (to 21% from 25%).

Thirty-eight percent of societies cooperated with libraries in projects to create indexes, abstracts or other works to improve access to genealogical sources (see Table 5). Societies were invited to describe such projects, and twenty-four did so. Fourteen of the nineteen responses which indicated the type of library named a public library. Of the twenty-three responses indicating the type of record processed, five named census records, five named cemetery records, and four named probate records. Death, birth, church, and tax records, obituaries, church histories, and

TABLE 4

LOCATION OF GENEALOGICAL MATERIALS
OWNED BY LOCAL GENEALOGICAL SOCIETIES

Type of material	Material location				
	Society does not own	Kept at society member's residence	Kept at society operated library	Kept at non-society operated library	Other
General reference books	Percent: 31	1	17	49	1
Ohio genealogy and history books	Percent: 20	3	19	57	1
Society-authored lists and indexes	Percent: 10	23	21	44	2
Society publications (besides newsletters)	Percent: 7	19	25	48	1
Society newsletter back issues	Percent: 1	22	25	46	6
Other societies' newsletters & publications to which society subscribes	Percent: 3	6	22	62	7

newspaper records projects accounted for the remainder.

Stronger linkages were noted in other collection development categories. Fifty-eight percent of respondents had provided advice to a library on its genealogical acquisitions, 81% had donated materials to libraries, and 51% had donated funds for genealogical acquisitions. Asked to estimate a value for donations over the past three years in one of four categories, 48% estimated that donations exceeded $300.

The survey instrument was limited in that it did not distinguish, when asking for information about society-library linkages, between respondents which operated their own libraries and those which dealt with non-society operated libraries. Recognizing that data from respondents in such a proprietary library situation might skew data intended in part to show linkages between organizations, a computation was made to factor out responses from thirteen societies which indicated that their owned materials were kept at a society-operated library. This computation yielded two significantly (greater than 3%) different linkages, both stronger--to 63% from 58% in collection development advice, and to 51% from 48% in funds donation of $300 or more.

TABLE 5

COLLECTION DEVELOPMENT, ACCESS, AND CREATION

(In the past five years) cooperated with a library in indexing, etc. project to process genealogical records	Percent:	Yes 38	No 62		
(In the past three years) asked by a library for advice on acquisition of materials or equipment	Percent:	Yes 58	No 42		
(In the past three years) donated genealogical materials to a library	Percent:	Yes 81	No 19		
(In the past three years) donated funds to a library for acquisition of genealogical materials	Percent:	Yes 51	No 49		
Estimated total value ($) of funds and equipment donated to libraries in last three years	Percent:	$0-75 20	$76-150 18	$151-300 14	over $300 48

Survey Results--Frequencies--Indirect (Referral) and Direct Reference Service

A strong majority of respondents had cooperated with libraries in the past three years as referral sources (see Table 6). Over three-quarters of respondent societies received referrals from libraries for patrons with questions beyond library staff expertise (83%) and for beginning

genealogists (76%). A majority of respondents (57%) had library patrons referred to them to use materials not available in the library.

A large number of respondents had also worked with libraries in providing direct reference service by mail (82% of respondents had replied to genealogical queries received by libraries) and in person (54% of respondents had provided libraries with volunteer staffing).

Factoring out the effect of respondent societies which operated their own libraries yielded only one frequency affected by more than 3%--library referrals to use society materials not available at the library declined from 57% to 50%.

Survey Results--Frequencies--Programming, Promotion, and Facilities Sharing

The data regarding facilities sharing, programming and promotion (see Table 7) indicated a varying degree of society-library linkage. A small majority of societies used library facilities for regular meetings (55%), and seminars or workshop programs (51%). Library staff gave presentations at regular meetings for 62% of respondents, but at seminars or workshops for only 18%. Two types of publicity, society membership information (85%) and promotional material for society workshops and programs (73%) were readily made

TABLE 6

INDIRECT AND DIRECT REFERENCE SERVICE

(In the past three years) libraries have referred patrons to society:				
To use society materials not available to library	Percent:	Yes 57	No 26	Don't Know 17
To answer specific research questions beyond library expertise	Percent:	83	7	10
To provide help to a beginning genealogist	Percent:	76	12	12
Any other reason	Percent:	26	12	62
(In the past three years) society replied to genealogical mail queries received by libraries	Percent:	Yes 82	No 18	
(In the past three years) society provided volunteer staffing to a library	Percent:	Yes 54	No 46	

available by libraries, but free copies of society newsletters were only available for 25% of societies. The low availability of free newsletters may be due in part to society reluctance--volunteered comments included: "for reading only, discontinued sending to some libraries when we learned newsletters were not available, or thrown

out"..."available to read or copy, not distribution"..."we do not give our newsletters free to the public." It appears that newsletters are an item of value to societies, and that societies do not want to diminish their value through free distribution.

Finally, only 25% of societies had actually co-sponsored a genealogical seminar or workshop with a library. All eleven such programs for which respondents volunteered brief descriptions were sponsored in cooperation with public libraries. Eight were workshops for beginning genealogists, and two of the eight involved programs presented by a genealogical publisher. One society co-sponsored an annual program for sixth graders at a local school. Another society presented an annual seminar to library staff at their staff development day. The other seminars dealt with specialized subjects, including German research and using microform in research. Factoring out the effect of respondent societies owning their own libraries revealed significantly (over 3%) increased linkages for library facilities meeting use (to 59% from 55%), for library facilities workshop use (to 56% from 51%), for library staff presentations at meetings (to 67% from 62%), and for society membership information availability (to 89% from 85%).

TABLE 7

PROGRAMMING, PROMOTION, AND FACILITIES SHARING

(In the past three years) society used library facilities for:		Yes	No
Regular society meetings	Percent:	55	45
Seminars or workshops	Percent:	51	49
(In the past three years) professional library staff gave presentations at:		Yes	No
Regular society meetings	Percent:	62	38
Society-sponsored seminars or workshops	Percent:	18	82
The following information is available at libraries for the general public:		Yes	No
Society membership information	Percent:	85	15
Copies of society's newsletter for free distribution	Percent:	25	75
Publicity for society's workshops and special programs	Percent:	73	27
(In the past three years) society has co-sponsored a genealogical seminar or workshop	Percent:	Yes 25	No 75

Survey Results--Frequencies--Preferred Libraries for Genealogical Research

Respondents were asked to list the three best libraries in their research area, in order of the quality of the genealogical collection of those libraries (see Table 8). Some respondents interpreted this question more broadly than others, naming regional genealogical research centers outside of their geographical research area. A public library was a first choice of 62% of respondents, and four public libraries were mentioned in at least three surveys: the State Library of Ohio, Allen County Public Library in Fort Wayne, Indiana, Stark County Public Library in Canton, and the Fairview Park Regional branch of Cuyahoga County Public Library. An academic library was named as a second choice by 15% of respondents, and three academic libraries were mentioned in at least three surveys: the Bowling Green State University Archives, the Ohio University-Zanesville library, and Alden Library at Ohio University. A private library (not academic or public) was a first choice of 25% of respondents, and three private libraries were named in at least three surveys: Western Reserve Historical Society in Cleveland, the Ohio Historical Society, and the Ohio Genealogical Society Library in Mansfield. Local genealogical society-operated libraries, coded as private libraries, were named in two surveys. LDS

(Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints) Branch Genealogical Libraries, of which there are eight in Ohio, were named in seven surveys.

TABLE 8

SOCIETY EVALUATION OF GENEALOGICAL STRENGTH OF AREA LIBRARIES BY TYPE OF LIBRARY

List the three best libraries in your research area (up to three) in order of the overall quality of their genealogical collection:

Rank Order	Type of library			
	Public	Academic	Private	No response
Choice #1	62%	10%	25%	3%
Choice #2	53%	15%	16%	16%
Choice #3	35%	9%	19%	37%

Survey Results--Frequencies--Library-Society Attitudes

Seven statements were posed to respondents to assess society attitudes regarding society-library cooperation and societies' perception of libraries' importance in serving the needs of area genealogists. In general, responses reflected positive attitudes toward libraries and society-library cooperation (see Table 9), but there was a dissenting minority. Eighteen percent of respondents agreed or strongly

agreed with the statement that libraries are not interested in genealogy (44% disagreed, rather than strongly disagreed); 18% agreed or strongly agreed with the statement that personality conflicts had influenced society-library relations. One respondent volunteered their society's horror story: their society fell out with the local public library when, after years of donating materials to the library's collection, the society asked to establish a written agreement and the library responded by asking them to leave! As another respondent remarked, "...some people's feathers ruffle too easily."

Survey Results--Cross-Tabulations with Chi-Square--Demographic Profile

In the second stage of data analysis, statistical subprograms of SAS (General Purpose Statistical Analysis System) were utilized. Cross-tabulations were run between five categories of profile data and twenty-five categories of data quantifying society-library linkages. Through visual inspection, substantial associations were identified between six selected profile variables and twenty-five linkage variables.

The demographic profile variable, which identified a respondent as being located in a rural or urban area, was intended to provide information about the research milieu

TABLE 9

LIBRARY-SOCIETY ATTITUDES

SA = Strongly agree A = Agree D = Disagree SD = Strongly disagree NA = Not applicable	Percent of respondents' responses to statements a-g				
	SA	A	D	SD	NA
a. Our society has a good working relationship with area libraries	52	41	4	0	3
b. Area libraries have helped to publicize our society and our activities	22	54	12	2	10
c. Libraries in our research area are important to genealogists	73	23	1	0	3
d. Our society has made an effort to develop a positive relationship with area libraries	63	30	5	0	2
e. Area libraries are not interested in genealogy	5	13	44	34	4
f. The staff of libraries in our research area are courteous and helpful to genealogy researchers	41	55	3	1	0
g. Personality conflicts between individuals in area libraries and our society have significantly influenced society-library relations	10	8	39	33	10

in which a society operated. Observed differences between urban and rural societies were noted in five areas. Forty-seven percent of urban societies had cooperated with libraries in an indexing or records processing project, compared to 29% of rural societies. 61% of urban societies had used library facilities for seminars or workshops, compared to 41% of rural societies. Library staff had given presentations at society regular meetings to 77% of urban societies, but to only 47% of rural societies. Libraries made available society workshop and program publicity to 82% of urban societies, compared to 65% of rural societies. Libraries had co-sponsored a genealogical seminar or workshop with 36% of urban societies, compared to 14% of rural societies.

When ranking libraries in their area by quality of genealogical collection, urban and rural societies both tended to identify a public library as their first (66% by urban, 63% by rural) and second choice (64% by urban, 62% by rural). The next most frequently identified library by rural societies was an academic library (17% as a first choice, 28% as a second choice), while the runnerup for urban societies was a private library (31% as a first choice, 29% as a second choice). These results may reflect a greater number of library options available to researchers in urban areas,

including LDS branch libraries. It may also show that academic libraries located in rural communities have a greater sensitivity to serving the public than those in urban areas.

Survey Results--Cross-Tabulations--Society Size

Cross-tabulations were run against three measures of society size: total membership, local membership (the number of members which actually resided in the research area), and average attendance at regular society meetings. Analysis of society size was limited by a concentration of data on opposite ends of the survey instrument's interval scale for two of the membership measures (total membership at the high end, average meeting attendance at the low end); for those measures, categories were collapsed to facilitate analysis.

To analyze total society membership, categories were collapsed into two membership categories, eighty members or less and eighty-one or more. Thirty-two percent of the large societies had written agreements with libraries regarding the disposition of society-owned materials held there, compared to 14% of small societies. Eighty-seven percent of large societies had donated over $75 worth of materials and funds to libraries in the past three years, compared to only 50% of small societies. Libraries made available society workshop

and program publicity for 80% of large societies, compared to 46% of small societies. Twenty-nine percent of large societies had co-sponsored a genealogical seminar or workshop with a library, compared to only 8% of small societies. For the variables where observed differences were noted, large societies demonstrated stronger linkages with libraries than small societies.

In analyzing societies according to the number of members residing locally, response categories were collapsed to form three groups: small societies with forty or less local members, medium-sized societies with forty-one to eighty local members, and large societies with eighty-one or more local members. Sixty-three percent of small societies had used library facilities for regular society meetings, compared to 59% of medium-sized societies and 45% of large societies. Libraries had distributed free copies of society newsletters for 35% of large societies, compared to 27% of medium-sized societies and 17% of large societies. Libraries had made available workshop and program publicity for 90% of large societies, 77% of medium-sized societies and 59% of small societies. 35% of large societies had co-sponsored a genealogical seminar or workshop with a library, compared to 27% of medium-sized societies and 17% of small societies. While societies with small local membership make greater use

of local facilities than large ones, several other linkages appear to strengthen as local society membership increases.

To analyze membership by average society meeting attendance, categories were collapsed into three groups: small societies with average attendance of twenty or less members, medium-sized societies with average attendence between twenty-one and forty members, and large societies with average attendance over forty members.

In total value of donations to libraries, 80% of large meeting societies gave over $300, compared to 50% for medium-sized societies and 41% for small societies. Referrals for expertise beyond library staff were reported by 100% of large societies, 96% of medium-sized societies, and 87% of small societies, while referrals of beginning genealogists were reported by 100% of large societies, 96% of medium-sized societies, and 76% of small societies. Mail genealogical queries were handled by 100% of large societies, 82% of medium-sized societies, and 79% of small societies. Libraries made society membership information available for 100% of large societies, 93% of medium-sized societies, and 77% of small societies. Libraries made available free copies of society newsletters for 33% of large societies, 28% of medium-sized societies, and 21% of small societies. Libraries made available workshop and program publicity for

100% of large societies, 83% of medium-sized societies, and 61% of small societies. Although most of the observed differences connected to average society meeting attendance were weak, they indicated stronger society-library linkages for societies with higher average meeting attendance.

Survey Results--Cross-Tabulations--Age of Society

To analyze survey results by the length of time that a society had been organized, survey results were collapsed into three roughly equal categories: newer societies organized in 1981 or later, established societies organized between 1976 and 1980, and older societies organized in 1975 or earlier.

Society age was observed to be associated with location of society-owned materials. Table 10 shows that, as society age increased, society-owned materials were less likely to be located in non-society operated libraries and more likely to be located in society operated libraries.

Society age was observed to relate to two measures of referral and reference service. Referrals beyond library staff expertise were reported by 90% of older societies, 82% of established societies, and 81% of newer societies. Library volunteer staffing had been provided by 74% of older societies, 55% of established societies, and 42% of newer

TABLE 10

CROSS-TABULATION FREQUENCIES:
LOCATION OF GENEALOGICAL MATERIALS
OWNED BY LOCAL GENEALOGICAL SOCIETIES

Type of material	Material location:					
	Kept at society-operated library			Kept at non-society operated library		
	Age of society (years):					
	0-10	11-15	16+	0-10	11-15	16+
	All results in percentages:					
General reference books	4	18	37	58	55	32
Ohio genealogy and history books	8	23	32	62	59	42
Society-authored lists and indexes	8	18	42	64	41	32
Society publications (besides newsletters)	12	27	42	65	41	26
Society newsletter back issues	12	27	42	62	41	26
Other societies' newsletters & publications to which society subscribes	8	23	42	77	64	42

societies. Stronger referral and reference service linkages were found as society age increased.

Society age was associated with five linkage variables related to programming, publicity, and facilities sharing. Sixty-three percent of older societies had used library facilities for regular meetings, compared to 59% of established societies and 46% of newer societies. Fifty-eight percent of older societies had used library facilities for seminars or workshops, compared to 52% of established societies and 40% of newer societies. Libraries made available publicity for society workshops and programs for 90% of older societies, 71% of established societies, and 65% of newer societies. Thirty-seven percent of older societies had co-sponsored a genealogical seminar or workshop with a library, compared to 27% of established societies, and 12% of newer societies. These data indicated a direct relationship between society age and society-library linkage strength.

Society age was also associated with the ranking of genealogically important libraries in the area. A public library was the most common first choice of newer societies (73%), of established societies but less so (63%), and still less so for older societies (47%).

Survey Results--Cross-Tabulations--Original Society Affiliation

Societies were asked to indicate whether they had been originally established as part of another public library, historical society, or genealogical society, to determine affiliation with other organizations. OGS (Ohio Genealogical Society) was not considered in this category because it was not a local entity. Seventeen (24.6%) societies indicated such an affiliation (fourteen with a historical society, two with a public library, one with another genealogical society) at the time of their formation.

Several observed differences related to collection development, access and creation. Sixty-three percent of affiliated societies held society publications (besides newsletters) at non-society operated libraries, compared to 39% of non-affiliated societies. Sixty-five percent of affiliated societies held society newsletter back issues at non-society operated libraries, compared to 42% of non-affiliated societies. Fifty-nine percent of affiliated societies held copies of other societies' newsletters to which they subscribed at a non-society affiliated library, compared to 42% of non-affiliated societies. Fifty-nine percent of affiliated societies had cooperated with libraries in an indexing or records processing project, compared to only 31% of non-affiliated societies. However, while 86% of

non-affiliated societies had donated genealogical books and other materials to libraries, only 65% of affiliated societies had done so.

One association was identified between affiliation and publicity. Libraries made available publicity on society workshops and programs to 78% of affiliated societies, compared to 59% of non-affiliated societies.

Regarding attitudes of affiliated and non-affiliated societies, One hundred percent of affiliated societies agreed or strongly agreed that they had a good working relationship with libraries, compared to 90% of non-affiliated societies. Ninety-three percent of affiliated societies agreed or strongly agreed that libraries in their research area had helped to publicize their society and their activities, compared to 83% of non-affiliated libraries. One hundred percent of affiliated societies agreed or strongly agreed that their society had made an effort to develop a positive relationship with area libraries, compared to 94% of non-affiliated societies. While 80% of non-affiliated societies disagreed or disagreed strongly with the statement that area libraries were not interested in genealogy, 88% of affiliated societies did so. One hundred percent of affiliated societies agreed or agreed strongly that staff at libraries in their research area were courteous and helpful to

genealogy researchers, compared to 94% of non-affiliated societies. Finally, while 24% of non-affiliated societies agreed or strongly agreed that personality conflicts between individuals in area libraries and their society had significantly influenced society-library relations, only 6% of affiliated societies did so. In general, affiliated societies showed more positive attitudes towards libraries than non-affiliated societies.

CHAPTER 4

SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS

Summary of Information Collected--Profile

A large majority of the respondent societies had over eighty members, with sixteen groups reporting memberships of more than two hundred. However, two-thirds of the societies had less than eighty local members, and the average attendance at regular meetings, one rough measure of active involvement, was twenty or less for half of them. Most societies were relatively young organizations, with over two-thirds of them formed since the recent genealogy boom began in 1976. Over 90% of the societies were affiliated with a state genealogical society, and about a quarter of them had been originally established as part of a local historical society or public library.

Summary of Information Collected--Collection Development, Access and Creation

Most societies' arrangements with area libraries were informal; only a quarter of societies that kept genealogical materials they owned at someone else's library had a written agreement with that library as to the disposition of those materials. Written agreements were more common among

societies with large total memberships.

Over 90% of the respondents owned, as part of their own collections, back issues of their own newsletters, other societies' newsletters, society publications other than newsletters, and surname lists and indexes. Over two-thirds of societies owned books on Ohio history and genealogy and general genealogical reference books. A quarter of societies owning a type of material kept it at libraries that they operated, almost a quarter kept three types of materials--newsletter back issues, other society publications, and surname lists and indexes--at a society member's residence, and non-society operated libraries housed materials for about half to two-thirds of the societies (depending on material).

The location of society-owned materials was related to the age of the society and, in part, to the society's original affiliation. The older the society, the more it kept materials in a library operated by the society, and the less it kept them in non-society operated libraries. Societies originally affiliated with another organization were more likely to keep society publications (both newsletters and other publications) and other societies' newsletters at non-society operated libraries.

Just over a third of societies had cooperated with a library to actually create genealogical works, i.e., indexes

or other finding aids for researchers. Societies in urban areas and societies originally affiliated with another organization engaged more often in such cooperative ventures.

A majority of societies provided advice to libraries on what genealogical materials they should add to their collection, while a large majority actually donated materials to a library. Societies originally affiliated with another organization donated materials to a library more frequently. About half of the societies donated funds to a library to be spent for genealogical purposes. Almost half of the societies estimated the total value of their contributions (materials and funds combined) to libraries in the past three years to exceed $300. Societies with large total memberships gave at least a modest amount ($75 or more) more often, and societies with a large average meeting attendance were more likely to donate over $300 in value.

Summary of Information Collected--Indirect (Referral) and Direct Reference Service

Libraries referred patrons to more than three-quarters of societies in two situations: to answer questions beyond the expertise of library staff, and to assist beginning genealogists referred to societies by libraries. Referrals in both situations were more frequent for societies with large society meeting attendance, and referrals beyond

library staff expertise were more common for older societies. A smaller majority of societies reported referrals from libraries to use materials not available at the library. Over three-quarters of societies had answered mail genealogical queries that libraries recieved; this was more common with societies with large average meeting attendance. A majority of societies provided volunteer staffing for a library's genealogical patrons; older societies were more likely to provide this assistance.

Summary of Information Collected--Programming, Promotion and Facilities Sharing

A small majority of societies had used library facilities for meetings, seminars or workshops. Older societies, urban societies, and groups with smaller local membership were more likely to use library facilities for their activities. Library staff gave presentations at society meetings for a majority of societies (more often for urban societies); however, library staff gave presentations at society seminars or workshops for less than a fifth of societies. Over four-fifths of societies reported that libraries made society membership information available for patrons (more often for societies with higher average meeting attendance), and libraries made available society workshop and seminar publicity for almost three-quarters of the

respondents (frequency was directly related to every profile variable applied). Libraries made available free copies of the society's newsletter for only a quarter of societies (more often for societies with large local membership or large average meeting attendance), and only a quarter of societies had co-sponsored a seminar or workshop with a library (co-sponsoring more often occurred with urban societies, older societies, societies with large total membership, and societies with large local membership).

Summary of Information Collected--Preferred Libraries for Genealogical Research

Asked to identify the three strongest genealogical library collections in their research area, a public library was named by most societies as their first or second choice, and by a third of societies as their third choice. After public libraries, rural societies were most likely to identify an academic library, while urban societies were most likely to name a private library. Older societies were less likely to identify public libraries as their first choice.

Summary of Information Collected--Library-Society Attitudes

Over 90% of respondents agreed, more than 60% strongly, that libraries in their research area were important to

genealogists, and that their society had made an effort to develop a positive relationship with area libraries. Over 90% agreed, and over 40% strongly, that their society has a good working relationship with area libraries, and that the staff of libraries in their research area are courteous and helpful to genealogy researchers. Over 70% of respondents agreed, but only 22% strongly, that area libraries had helped in publicizing their society and their activities. Over 70% disagreed, and over a third strongly, that area libraries were not interested in genealogy, or that personality conflicts between individuals in area libraries and their society had significantly influenced society-library relations. The largest negative response, i.e., a response indicating a weak or negative library-society relationship, was 18%--to the statement regarding personality conflicts. Societies originally affiliated with another organization more often responded positively, i.e., indicating a strong or positive library-society relationship, to all attitude statements.

Conclusions

One objective of this study was to identify characteristics of local genealogical societies and the extent of their collections. The above data have provided us

with a profile of these organizations in a single state.

Local genealogical societies often have up to several hundred members who, in exchange for a membership fee, receive the organization's newsletter, free or discounted query service, and often discounts for society publications and programs. However, only a minority of members usually live in the research area, and only a fraction of the total membership regularly attends regular meetings and is fully involved in the society's activities. Most of these societies have only been organized since the Bicentennial and Roots, and many are less than a decade old. Often societies will be associated with a state genealogical society which serves as a lobbyist in state government, a conduit of information between groups, and an organizer of programs and joint society projects in its own right. Societies are less frequently affiliated with another local institution such as a library or historical society.

As part of their basic operation, genealogical societies accumulate substantial collections of a variety of materials to facilitate the genealogical research of their membership. These materials are most often kept at a library not operated by the society, with which the society has an (usually oral) agreement, but materials may also be kept at a society-operated library or a member's residence.

This study also addressed the second objective--to determine the degree to which libraries and local genealogical societies interact in ways suggested by the library literature. The most common linkages were of several types: society promotion (libraries making available information about society membership and about society programs such as workshops), referral of library patrons to societies (for questions beyond library staff expertise, or to assist a beginning genealogist), reference service (handling genealogical mail queries received by libraries), and collection development (donating genealogical materials to libraries). The least common linkages included cooperative ventures to provide a finished product for the general public (engaging in joint projects to create indexes or other records processing, or co-sponsoring workshops or seminars) or involving library staff as expert resources for societies (having library staff give presentations at society workshops or seminars). A fourth infrequently cited linkage, the presence of a written agreeement between society and library, was more indicative of the informal nature of the society-library relationship than of the degree to which genealogical service or materials were afforded. A fifth infrequently occurring linkage, making available free copies of society newsletters, was one for which several other

viable options exist, such as making non-circulating copies available in the collection.

The study also set out to assess the attitudes of societies toward libraries and their role in the genealogy network. A large majority of respondents indicated, for all of the statements, a positive relationship between societies and libraries, and among libraries toward genealogy. There is still room for improvement: while no one question generated more than 18% negative response, 35% of societies responded to at least one of the seven statements in a way that would indicate a negative society-library relationship or negative attitude of libraries toward societies.

Survey data were cross-tabulated so substantial differences between the frequencies of society-library linkages related to society characteristics could be identified. The age of a society was related to the location of society-owned materials, library referrals for expertise, volunteer staffing, society use of library facilities, library publicity of society programs, and co-sponsorship of genealogical programs.

Society membership--in terms of total membership, local membership, or average meeting size--was related to linkages in various combinations. Total membership was related to the presence of written agreements between libraries and

societies. Total membership and meeting size were both related to the degree to which societies contributed (materials and funds) to libraries. Total membership and local membership were both related to the number of societies co-sponsoring programs with libraries. Total membership, local membership, and meeting size were all related to libraries' making available program promotional information. Local membership was related to society use of library facilities. Local membership and meeting size were both related to libraries' making available free copies of society newsletters. Meeting size was related to the frequency of referrals for expertise and of beginning genealogists, handling of mail queries, and library provision of society membership information.

Society location in an urban or rural area was related to frequency of joint processing projects, society use of library facilities, use of library staff for presentations at meetings, library provision of society program promotional information, and co-sponsorship of programs. The original affiliation of a society (with an organization other than the state genealogical society) was related to the location of society-owned materials, frequency of joint processing projects, donation of materials to libraries, library provision of society program promotional information, and

society-library attitudes.

Implications of the Study

Library service to genealogists is more than just serving individual patrons. A significant proportion of genealogists belong to genealogical organizations, including local genealogical societies, and those organizations have influenced the quality and quantity of community genealogical resources as part of their basic mission. Local genealogical societies realize that libraries in their area can be an important resource, and have made an effort to develop that resource. The information and skill that local genealogical societies control is also a potential resource for libraries. The opportunity to use local genealogical resources efficiently and effectively for the benefit of society members and library patrons alike offers a challenge to both libraries and local genealogical societies.

Is cooperation between libraries and local genealogical societies inevitable? Not necessarily--for example, in this study, as society age increased, societies more frequently kept their materials in a society-operated library and less often kept them in a non-society operated library. The opportunity for such cooperation is now greater than ever before, if simply because of logistics: in Ohio, for example,

eighty-seven of eighty-eight counties now have at least one local genealogical society within its borders. However, lacking initiative from societies or libraries, the potential benefits of cooperation to meet community genealogical information needs may go unrealized.

Is cooperation between libraries and local genealogical societies a good thing? On a practical level, cooperation can provide societies with a secure yet accessible repository for the research materials they collect and create, professional assistance in organizing collected materials and executing records processing projects, a recruiting ground for new members, facilities for meetings and programs, a partner in presenting those programs, and a well-situated location from which to publicize themselves and their activities. Cooperation can provide libraries with collection development assistance from researchers well versed in local needs, the use of society-owned materials to supplement their own collection, funds and materials donated by societies, a referral resource, a knowledgeable resource for directly responding to mail and in-person queries, and an expert resource for training library staff. For the individual genealogical researcher, the benefits are obvious: a coordinated collection and reference service effort which improves effectiveness while reducing the time and expense of

genealogical research. The practical potential benefits of cooperation are substantial, and increasing awareness of the possibilities is an important step toward improving cooperation between libraries and genealogical societies.

The arrival of high technology to libraries definitely has its applications in genealogy and genealogical cooperation as well. Genealogy is a discipline in which efficiency and productivity can be greatly increased through the use of computers for indexing, abstracting, and organizing data into forms readily accessible to the researcher. Local societies face obstacles in taking advantage of technology, however--high initial cost, logistical problems (where should the society's computer be kept?), and political issues (how can a society-owned system be used for the group's benefit as opposed to that of a privileged few members?). Libraries may be in a position to help local genealogical societies overcome at least some of these obstacles, and in the process, improve genealogical service to all--even serving as an example for technology's application generally in the scholarly discipline of history, which has to date strongly resisted its use.

This study also points up pitfalls in society-library interaction. Most arrangements between libraries and societies are informal ones, and although the flexibility of

an informal arrangement can be beneficial, it can also become a liability. Library personnel changes may completely change unwritten assumptions and rules under which a library and a society have operated--providing society members with preferential access to materials, for example. Genealogical societies are themselves far from monoliths of opinion; the opinions of one or a few strong-willed members can quickly poison a cooperative spirit, whether they are society executive board members, society founding members with a degree of influence, or simply an aggressive individual. If library-society cooperation is to grow in the long term, particularly in terms of collection development, it is best for both sides to set parameters. This may well be an appropriate area for an umbrella group such as a state genealogical organization to provide guidance, especially for newer groups.

Discussion of a written policy for library-society cooperation, particularly in collection development, can result in libraries and societies confronting some important issues that otherwise might be avoided. One such issue is that of circulation and interlibrary loan availability of genealogical materials. Genealogical materials have, for decades, been ineligible for interlibrary loan, in large part because libraries viewed genealogy as a nuisance activity

that wasn't worth using interlibrary loan resources to support. However, as Parker (1990) has pointed out, many genealogical societies have also limited access to materials by making bequests and contributions to libraries contingent on those materials being available for use only on premises. While conceding that heavily used genealogical works, like any other reference work, should not be sent to other libraries, Parker argues that such reference materials should be carefully selected, and the rest allowed to circulate to a wider public. This example illustrates that interests can conflict: in this case libraries' interest of providing maximum access to information versus the desire of societies to limit benefits to their membership. To successfully deal with issues such as these, libraries and societies need to realize the broader issues at hand and not let their rapport deteriorate into personality conflicts.

Suggestions for Further Study

This study scratches the surface of exploring the relationship between genealogical organizations, such as local genealogical societies, and genealogical service organizations, such as libraries. This study indicates several areas for further useful research.

One approach would be to study society-library

interaction from a sample of different regions around the United States. Does the phenomenon of having a shorter local history (e.g., the West vs. New England) have an influence? How does a state genealogical society or coordinating body (or in some states, more than one) for smaller societies influence the degree and character of society-library cooperation? While this study's research instrument used very crude longitudinal methods (e.g., "has this been done in the last three years") to develop linkages, future studies may use more detailed methods in studying library-society cooperation, such as variations on the survey method (e.g., visually inspecting collections or interviewing key individuals) or historical method (e.g., reviewing society meeting minutes and written agreements between societies and libraries), to provide more qualitative information on society-library cooperation and its nature. Such focused research would involve sampling the research population to get a broader perspective while keeping the study to a manageable scale.

Genealogical organizations other than local genealogical societies also warrant study. How do libraries and genealogists (who are mostly non-Mormon) involve the LDS branch libraries in the genealogy sector? Do ethnic genealogical societies, whose members may associate genealogy

even more strongly than other genealogists with national identity, have the same commonality with libraries as do local societies? Have hereditary patriotic societies become more or less involved in general genealogical research as genealogy has moved toward a heritage perspective, and how has that influenced their relationship with libraries, or the content of their own collections? What is the potential for any of these organizations to contribute to serving community needs for genealogical information?

The other half of the library-society cooperation equation is the library. What motivates libraries to work with genealogical societies--political support, patron demand, the influence of a genealogically active staff member, or goodwill? Just as genealogists view libraries as part of a genealogy network which meets their information needs, libraries act within their own organizational system--how do genealogical societies fit in that network? Studying the process of how libraries work with local genealogical societies may benefit the library literature by adding to our knowledge of the motivations, the reality, and the potential for libraries to interact with, be aware of, and ultimately better serve their public through community organizations.

APPENDIX A

LOCAL GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY QUESTIONNAIRE
WITH RAW SURVEY RESULTS
AND MAILING ENCLOSURES

1. List your society's name:_____

Response by geographic region: NW: 12 NE: 24
C: 8 SE: 15
SW: 10

2. Describe your society's research area--the geographic area for which your society was established to serve (list counties, parts of counties, or metropolitan areas that apply):

_____ _____

_____ _____

Response by demographic character: Rural: 35
Urban: 34

3. Mark "X" in the range corresponding to each category of society membership (Estimate if exact figures not available):

	------Number of members-------				
	0-20	21-40	41-60	61-80	81+
Current total membership:	____	____	____	____	____
Response:	3	5	3	2	56
Number of current members residing in the society's research area (See Question #2):	____	____	____	____	____
Response:	8	16	12	10	20
		(No response: 3)			
Average attendance at regular society meetings in 1990:	____	____	____	____	____
Response:	34	29	4	2	0

4. In what year was your society established?_____

	1986-91	1981-5	1976-80	1971-75	pre-1971
Grouped response:	8	18	22	11	8

(No response: 2)

5. Was your society established originally as part of another public library, historical society, or genealogical society?

	Yes	No
Response:	17	52

Answer 6 and 7 if you answered "Yes" to Question 5:

6. Name the organization involved in your society's formation:

	Historical Society	Public Library	Genealogical Society (other than OGS)
Response by type of organization:	14	2	1

7. Are you still formally associated with this organization?

	Yes	No
Response:	10	7

8. If genealogical materials owned by your society are kept at a library not owned by the society, does the society have a written agreement specifying ownership, access, and other issues regarding these materials?

	Yes	No	Not Applicable
Response:	13	33	22

(No response: 1)

9. Please indicate, for each type of genealogical material listed below, whether your society owns such materials and if so, at what location they are kept, using the following codes:

0--Society does not own such materials
1--Kept at a society member's residence
2--Kept at a library operated by the society
3--Kept at a library not operated by the society
4--Other:_____

a. General reference books (for example, The Source, Greenwood's Researcher's Guide to American Genealogy, Ancestry's Red Book) _____

	0	1	2	3	4	No response
Response:	21	1	12	34	1	0

b. Ohio genealogy and history books, including records and manuscripts (not including society publications) _____

Response:	14	2	13	39	1	0

c. Unpublished surname lists and indexes compiled by and/or for society members _____

Response:	7	16	14	30	1	1

d. Publications of the society (besides newsletters)_____

Response:	5	13	17	33	1	0

e. Back issues of the society's newsletter _____

Response:	1	15	17	32	4	0

f. Newsletters of other societies, and other publications to which the society subscribes _____

Response:	2	4	15	43	5	0

10. Has your society worked together with a library in your research area to index, abstract, or otherwise process genealogically significant information (for example, vital, land, church, cemetary records) in the last five years?

	Yes	No
Response:	26	43

If "Yes", identify the library, records processed, and the final product of your project (if more than one, name the most recent):

_____

_____

11. In the past three years, has a library in your research area asked your society for advice on what genealogical materials or equipment to purchase for their collection?

	Yes	No
Response:	40	29

12. In the past three years, has your society donated to a library in your research area:

	Yes	No
a. Genealogical books and other published materials?		
Response:	55	13
	(No response: 1)	
b. Money for the purchase of materials or equipment to be used in genealogical research?		
Response:	35	34

13. Estimate the total value of materials, equipment and money that your society has donated to libraries in your research area in the past three years (mark the block that applies):

	$0-75	$76-150	$151-$300	over $300
Response:	13	12	9	31

(No response: 4)

14. In the past three years, have libraries in your research area referred library patrons to your society for the following reasons:

	Yes	No	Don't Know
a. To use materials which the society owns, that the library does not own? Response:	39	18	12
b. To answer specific research questions requiring expertise not available at the library? Response:	57	5	7
c. To provide research help and direction for a beginning genealogist? Response:	53	8	8
d. Any other reason? Response:	18	8	43

15. In the past three years, has your society assisted libraries in your research area by replying to genealogical mail queries received by libraries?

	Yes	No
Response:	56	12

(No response: 1)

16. In the past three years, has your society provided volunteer staffing for a library in your research area?

	Yes	No
Response:	37	32

17. Has your society used library facilities in the past three years for:

	Yes	No
a. Regular society meetings? Response:	38	31
b. Seminars or workshops? Response:	34	33

(No response: 2)

18. Have professional library staff given presentations in the past three years at:

	Yes	No
a. Regular society meetings? Response:	42	26
	(No response: 1)	
b. Society-sponsored seminars or workshops? Response:	12	54
	(No response: 3)	

19. Is the following information available at libraries in your research area for the general public:

	Yes	No
a. Membership information for your society? Response:	58	10
	(No response: 1)	
b. Copies of your society's newsletter for free distribution? Response:	17	52
c. Publicity for your society's workshops and special programs? Response:	50	18
	(No response: 1)	

20. Has your society co-sponsored a genealogical seminar or workshop in the past three years with a library in your research area?

	Yes	No
Response:	17	51
	(No response: 1)	

If "Yes", name the library and briefly describe the event:

_____

_____

21. List the best libraries in your research area (up to three), in order of the overall quality of their genealogical collection:

#1:_____

	Public	Academic	Private	No Response
Response by type of library:	43	7	17	2

#2:_____

Response:	36	10	11	12

#3:_____

Response:	24	6	13	26

22. Answer the following questions using the codes shown below:

1--strongly agree
2--agree
3--disagree
4--strongly disagree
5--not applicable

a. Our society has a good working relationship with area libraries. _____

	1	2	3	4	5	No Response
Response:	36	28	3	0	2	0

b. Area libraries have helped to publicize our society and our activities. _____

Response:	15	36	8	1	7	2

c. Libraries in our research area are important to genealogists. _____

Response:	50	16	1	0	2	0

d. Our society has made an effort to develop a positive relationship with area libraries. _____

Response:	42	20	3	0	1	3

e. Area libraries are not interested in genealogy. _____

Response:	3	9	30	23	3	1

f. The staff at libraries in our research area are courteous and helpful to genealogy researchers. _____

Response:	28	38	2	1	0	0

g. Personality conflicts between individuals in area libraries and our society have significantly influenced society-library relations. _____

Response:	7	5	26	22	7	2

23. Would your society like to receive a copy of the results of this survey?

Yes____ No____

(Frequency not tabulated)

14716 Tokay Avenue
Maple Heights, Ohio
September 7, 1991

Dear Genealogical Society Member:

I would like your society's assistance in a research project to learn about how local genealogical societies and libraries cooperate to provide genealogical materials and services to society members and the general public. Each of the local and regional genealogical societies in Ohio are being asked to complete this questionnaire. I am doing this research as part of my graduate study in the School of Library Science at Kent State University.

In my own experience as a member and officer of local genealogical societies, I have seen many instances in which societies and libraries have worked together to collect and preserve information and make it available to others. Your participation in this study will help to make libraries and societies more aware of what's happening and what is possible through cooperation.

Please complete the enclosed questionnaire and consent form, and return it in the SASE by September 30. One or more members may complete the survey as is convenient for you. You should be able to answer most or all of the questions from your general knowledge. I have asked for your comments in a few questions--but feel free to give examples or detail at any point!

Finally, be assured that your answers will be strictly confidential. I have asked you to name specific libraries in certain instances, only to compare responses based on library size and so forth.

If you have any questions at all, call me (or leave a message) at (216) 663-1626. Thank you in advance for your cooperation, and I look forward to your reply later this month!

Sincerely,

Don Litzer

14716 Tokay Avenue
Maple Heights, Ohio
October 9, 1991

Dear Genealogical Society Member:

Last month I asked your society and many other genealogical societies in Ohio to complete and return a questionnaire as part of my research on how genealogical societies and libraries cooperate in providing genealogical materials and services. This research is part of my graduate work at Kent State University's School of Library Science.

I have received many completed surveys to date, but have not yet heard from your society. Your response is important to finding out how libraries and societies interact. Enclosed is another copy of my questionnaire, which I would appreciate you completing and returning to me, so you can be part of this important study.

Please complete the enclosed questionnaire, sign the consent form, and return it in the SASE by October 30. As I noted last month, one or more members of your society may complete the survey--you should be able to answer most or all of the questions from general knowledge--and feel free to give examples or detail at any point.

Finally, I'd like to clear up any concern that you may have about signing the consent form. This is a form letter that Kent State University requires for any study involving human subjects, to minimize any possible liability to the University. Since you are giving your consent by returning the completed questionnaire, signing the form is really a formality. Any member of your society may sign the consent form.

If you have any questions at all, call me (or leave a message) at (216) 663-1626. Thank you in advance for your cooperation, and I look forward to your reply later this month!

Sincerely,

Don Litzer

APPENDIX B
OHIO LOCAL GENEALOGICAL ORGANIZATIONS

Name	City	County	Region
Adams County Gen. Society	West Union	Adams	SW
Allen County Chapter	Lima	Allen	NW
Ashland County Chapter	Ashland	Ashland	NE
Ashtabula Cnty. Gen. Soc., Inc.	Jefferson	Ashtabula	NE
Athens County Chapter	Athens	Athens	SE
Auglaize County Chapter	Wapakoneta	Auglaize	NW
Belmont County Chapter	Barnesville	Belmont	SE
Black River Genealogists	Lorain	Lorain	NE
Brecksville-Cuyahoga Cnty. Chapter	Brecksville	Cuyahoga	NE
Brown County Chapter	Georgetown	Brown	SW
Butler County Chapter	Middletown	Butler	SW
Carroll County Chapter	Carrollton	Carroll	NE
Champaign County Genealogical Society Chapter	Urbana	Champaign	SW
Clark County Chapter	Springfield	Clark	SW
Clermont County Gen. Society Chapter	Batavia	Clermont	SW
Clinton County Chapter	Wilmington	Clinton	SW
Columbiana County Chapter	Salem	Columbiana	NE
Coshocton County Chapter	Coshocton	Coshocton	NE
Crawford County Chapter	Galion	Crawford	NW

APPENDIX B
OHIO LOCAL GENEALOGICAL ORGANIZATIONS

Name	City	County	Region
Cuyahoga Cnty.-Greater Cleveland Chapter	Cleveland	Cuyahoga	NE
Cuyahoga County-Parma Chapter	Parma	Cuyahoga	NE
Cuyahoga East Chapter	Lyndhurst	Cuyahoga	NE
Cuyahoga Southwest Chapter	Strongsville	Cuyahoga	NE
Cuyahoga West Chapter	Westlake	Cuyahoga	NE
Darke County Gen. Soc. Chapter	Greenville	Darke	SW
Defiance County Chapter	Defiance	Defiance	NW
Delaware County Chapter	Delaware	Delaware	C
Erie County Chapter	Sandusky	Erie	NW
Fairfield County Chapter	Lancaster	Fairfield	C
Fayette County Gen. Society	Washington Ct. Hse.	Fayette	SW
Firelands Kinologists	New London	Huron	NW
Franklin County Chapter	Columbus	Franklin	C
Friends of the Library Research Group	Springfield	Clark	SW
Fulton County Chapter	Swanton	Fulton	NW
Gallia County Chapter	Gallipolis	Gallia	SE
Geauga County Genealogical Society	Chardon	Geauga	NE
Greater Cleveland Gen. Soc.	Cleveland	Cuyahoga	NE
Greene County Chapter	Xenia	Greene	SW

APPENDIX B
OHIO LOCAL GENEALOGICAL ORGANIZATIONS

Name	City	County	Region
Guernsey County Chapter	Cambridge	Guernsey	SE
Hamilton County Chapter	Cincinnati	Hamilton	SW
Hancock County Chapter	Findlay	Hancock	NW
Hardin County Chapter	Kenton	Hardin	NW
Harrison County Chapter	Cadiz	Harrison	NE
Henry County Chapter	Deshler	Henry	NW
Hocking County Chapter	Rockbridge	Hocking	SE
Holmes County Chapter	Millersburg	Holmes	NE
Hudson Chapter	Hudson	Summit	NE
Huron County Chapter	Norwalk	Huron	NW
Jackson County Chapter	Jackson	Jackson	SE
Jefferson Cnty. Hist. & Gen. Soc.	Steubenville	Jefferson	NE
Jefferson County Chapter	Steubenville	Jefferson	NE
Johnstown Genealogy Society	Johnstown	Licking	C
Knox County Chapter	Mount Vernon	Knox	NE
KYOWVA Genealogical Society	Huntington, WV	Lawrence	SE
Lake County Chapter	Painesville	Lake	NE
Lawrence County Chapter	Ironton	Lawrence	SE
Licking County Gen. Society Chapter	Newark	Licking	C
Logan County Genealogical Society	Bellefontiane	Logan	C

APPENDIX B
OHIO LOCAL GENEALOGICAL ORGANIZATIONS

Name	City	County	Region
Lorain County Chapter	Elyria	Lorain	NE
Lucas County Chapter	Toledo	Lucas	NW
Madison County Chapter	London	Madison	C
Mahoning County Chapter	Canfield	Mahoning	NE
Marion Area Gen. Society Chapter	Marion	Marion	C
Medina County Genealogical Society	Medina	Medina	NE
Meigs County Chapter	Racine	Meigs	SE
Mercer County Chapter	Celina	Mercer	NW
Miami Co. H. & G.	Troy	Miami	SW
Miami Valley Chapter	Dayton	Montgomery	SW
Monroe County Ohio Chapter	Woodsfield	Monroe	SE
Montgomery County Chapter	Dayton	Montgomery	SW
Morgan County Genealogical Society	McConnelsville	Morgan	SE
Morrow County Chapter	Mount Gilead	Morrow	C
Muskingum County Chapter	Zanesville	Muskingum	SE
Noble County Chapter	Caldwell	Noble	SE
Northwestern Ohio Genealogical Society	Toledo	Lucas	NW
Ottawa County Chapter	Port Clinton	Ottawa	NW
Paulding County Genealogical Society	Paulding	Paulding	NW

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OHIO LOCAL GENEALOGICAL ORGANIZATIONS

Name	City	County	Region
Perry County Chapter	Junction City	Perry	SE
Pike County Chapter	Waverly	Pike	SE
Pioneer and Historical Society of Muskingum County	Zanesville	Muskingum	SE
Portage County Chapter	Ravenna	Portage	NE
Preble County Chapter	Eaton	Preble	SW
Preble County Genealogy Club	West Alexandria	Preble	SW
Putnam County Chapter	Ottawa	Putnam	NW
Richland County Chapter	Lexington	Richland	NE
Richland Shelby Chapter	Shelby	Richland	NE
Ross County Chapter	Chillicothe	Ross	SE
Sandusky County Kin Hunter Society	Fremont	Sandusky	NW
Scioto County Chapter	Portsmouth	Scioto	SE
Seneca County Chapter	Tiffin	Seneca	NW
Shelby County Genealogical Society	Sidney	Shelby	NW
Shelby Genealogical Society	Shelby	Shelby	NW
South Central Ohio Gen. Society	Chillicothe	Ross	SE
Southern Ohio Gen. Society	Hillsboro	Highland	SW
Southwest Butler County Genealogical Society	Hamilton	Butler	SW

APPENDIX B
OHIO LOCAL GENEALOGICAL ORGANIZATIONS

Name	City	County	Region
Stark County Chapter	North Canton	Stark	NE
Summit County Chapter	Akron	Summit	NE
The Alliance Gen. Soc. (TAGS)	Alliance	Stark	NE
Tri-County Lineage Research Society (Hancock, Seneca, Wood)	Fostoria	Hancock	NW
Tri-State Genealogical Society	East Liverpool	Columbiana	NE
Trumbull County Chapter	Warren	Trumbull	NE
Tuscawaras Cnty. Gen. Soc. Chapter	New Philadelphia	Tuscawaras	NE
Union County Chapter	Marysville	Union	C
Van Wert County Chapter	Van Wert	Van Wert	NW
Vinton County Chapter	Hamden	Vinton	SE
Warren County Gen. Soc. Chapter	Lebanon	Warren	SW
Washington County Chapter	Marietta	Washington	SE
Wayne County Chapter	Wooster	Wayne	NE
Wellington Genealogical Workshop	Wellington	Lorain	NE
West Augusta Hist. & Gen. Soc.	Belpre	Washington	SE
Williams County Chapter	Bryan	Williams	NW
Wood County Chapter	Bowling Green	Wood	NW
Wyandot County Chapter	Upper Sandusky	Wyandot	NW

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